

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Alexandria Division

EMPOWER OVERSIGHT  
WHISTLEBLOWERS & RESEARCH,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

Defendant.

1:23cv95 (LMB/JFA)

**ORDER**

A Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b) PRETRIAL CONFERENCE will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. before a magistrate judge.<sup>1</sup> The parties shall confer before this conference to consider the claims, defenses, possibilities of a prompt settlement or resolution of the case, trial before a magistrate judge, to arrange for the disclosures required by Rule 26(a)(1), and to develop a discovery plan which will complete discovery by Friday, August 18, 2023. A party may not exceed five (5) non-party, non-expert witness depositions and may not serve on any other party more than thirty (30) interrogatories, including parts and subparts, without leave of court. Proposed discovery plans must be filed by the Wednesday one week before the Rule 16(b) pretrial conference.

Any party required to file an answer must do so within twenty-one (21) days.

The FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE will be held on Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

The parties must *electronically file on or before* the final pretrial conference the Rule 26(a)(3) disclosures and a list of the exhibits to be used at trial, a list of the witnesses to be called at trial and a written stipulation of uncontested facts. The exhibits themselves or a copy should be exchanged with opposing counsel before the conference. Objections to exhibits must be filed within 10 days after the conference; otherwise the exhibits shall stand admitted in evidence. The original exhibits shall be delivered to the clerk as provided by Local Rule 79(A). Exhibits not so disclosed and listed will not be permitted at trial except for impeachment or rebuttal, and no person may testify whose identity, being subject to disclosure or timely requested in discovery, was not disclosed in time to be deposed or to permit the substance of his knowledge and opinions to be ascertained. The trial of this case will be set for a day certain, within 4-8 weeks of the final pretrial conference.

Discovery may begin as of receipt of this Order.

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS MUST BE REDACTED FROM ALL PUBLICLY FILED PLEADINGS AND EXHIBITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL RULE 7(C).

Entered this <sup>12</sup> day of April, 2023.

Alexandria, Virginia

*ls/ LMB*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leonie M. Brinkema  
United States District Judge

<sup>1</sup> This conference need not be in person and can be conducted by telephone conference.